

# News and Comment

*Phyllis H. Larsen*

## **AVMHS 2011 Annual Business Meeting and Program in St. Louis**

The AVMHS annual business meeting in St. Louis made the important decision to republish the classic book, *American Veterinary History*, by Bert W. Bierer, now that President Russell Currier has obtained our right to reprint it. Because existing copies are hard to read, the next step is to have it retyped. Thus far, nearly \$550 has been received specifically toward the estimated \$1,800 needed for the transcription. Members are encouraged to take part in this effort by sending funds to the AVMHS Secretary/Treasurer, Susanne Whitaker.

Lesley Gentry displayed a sample of the solidly attractive wall plaques which have been produced to recognize *Heritage Veterinary Practices*. The Pfizer Animal Health company arranged for all of the costs of making and sending the plaques to practices which have applied for a position on the AVMHS Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices which have continuously served 50 years or more in their communities.

For the coming year, Dr. Martha A. Littlefield from Baton Rouge, Louisiana was elected Program Chair/President Elect of AVMHS for 2011-2012. In addition, Associate Dean Ronnie Elmore from Kansas State University and Lesley Ann Gentry from Beloit, Kansas replaced outgoing Drs. Fred Born and Linda Schlater as at-large Board Members for two-year terms. Board members Dr. Marianne Y. Ash from Lafayette, Indiana and Dr. C.B. Chastain from Columbia, Missouri continue for another year.

The educational program was led off by Dr. Raffaele Roncalli, a past president of AVMHS, who spent considerable time in Japan. He spoke on "A Short History of Veterinary Parasitology

in Japan". Associate Dean Ronnie Elmore from Kansas State University tied veterinary medicine to more general history with "Abraham Lincoln Eisenhower: Veterinarian and the President's Uncle". Next, the 4th-generation and first woman owner of this *Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practice*, Dr. Carla Case-McCorvey, told about the "Case Veterinary Hospital: One Family Caring for Pets in Savannah, Georgia for over a Century." Finally, we heard more on "The Early History of the Horse Doctor" by Dr. Fred Born.

## **Spectacular AVMHS Booth**

By any measurement, the AVMHS booth was a great success at St. Louis. Dr. Fred Born had created and assembled a colorful display featuring numerous pictures related to the first veterinary schools in the western world in Lyon, France, in 1761 as well as at Alfort near Paris two years later. Its founder, Claude Bourgelat, was "present" as a full-sized, standing image, greeting the visitors. Among those many visitors was the French delegation led by Professor Jean-François Chary who stayed about a half hour getting to know AVMHS history-minded veterinarians.

University of Missouri veterinary librarian, Trenton Boyd, brought copies of early postcards of the Lyon veterinary school, a bronze medallion, and 1771 book by Bourgelat which added further interest for the many who visited the booth.

In association with this exhibit, a postcard showing the French postal stamp commemorating Vet2011 was given out freely to visitors at the booth. In addition, the medallion featuring Bourgelat's profile was among images depicting the founding of the veterinary school at Lyon that were included in a set of seven 4x6 postcards compiled by Dr.

Born for this occasion. These limited edition (500) packets were sold at the Auxiliary to the AVMA's booth in the Exhibit Hall.

Anyone interested in obtaining any of these packets of seven colorful, commemorative postcards at \$5.00 plus postage and handling should contact Susanne Whitaker or Dr. Born. Pictures from the booth and more details about the postcards will appear in the upcoming *Interim News & Comment*.

### Winners of the 2011 Essay Contest

This year Merck & Company provided enough money for four prizes. The winners from among 41 entries are:

First prize: **Maite S. Torres**, Kansas State University CVM, *Animals in Space: Reaching for the Stars*. \$1,000

Second prize: **Bruce Willbrant**, Kansas State University CVM, *The Emergence of Shelter Medicine in Veterinary Education: From Nonexistent to Necessary*. \$750

Third prize: **Suzanne Ford**, Oklahoma State University CVM, *South Carolina's Veterinary School - What Went Wrong?* \$500

Fourth prize: **Kimberly Lynne Carren Pescosolido**, North Carolina State University CVM, *Equine Veterinary Medicine from Ancient Times through the Greco-Roman Period*. \$250

In addition to the prize money, Merck & Company generously provides a copy of *The Merck Veterinary Manual* to all who submit appropriate essays. All essayists receive a one-year membership in AVMHS along with issues of *Veterinary Heritage* as well.

### Regional AVMHS Program at Ames, Iowa

Ames Iowa will be the location of the Society's third regional program following successful ones at Kansas State University in 2009 and Texas A & M University in 2010. As with the previous regional programs, the one on Friday, September 16, 2011 will be in conjunction with that state's veterinary medical association meeting.

The program will cover issues of preserving veterinary history including museums with particular reference to establishment of the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine; challenging efforts to control/eradicate two significant livestock diseases of bovine tuberculosis and hog cholera; milk hygiene progress as detailed through biography in the 1880-1920 time frame; early contributions of physicians on researching mammalian viral influenza; the entry of women in veterinary medicine; and finally historical events leading up to establishment in 1761 of the first school of veterinary medicine in Lyon, France.

Historic veterinary practices in Iowa will be recognized at the Friday noon luncheon. There will also be a tour of the R.A. Packer Veterinary History Museum at the close of the symposium. Finally, Claude Bourgelat and the AVMHS spectacular booth are scheduled to reappear at the Iowa regional meeting. Postcard sets will also be available for sale.

All AVMHS members are invited to attend. There will be a nominal charge of \$35.00 for IVMA registration that includes lunch. For more information, contact Dr. Russell W. Currier at ruscurrier@yahoo.com or 515-710-2331 (cell).

### Oral Histories of Veterinary Medicine Launched in St. Louis

At the annual meeting in St. Louis, AVMHS's new initiative to be called *Oral Histories of Veterinary Medicine* was launched. After much planning and preparation during the past year, Dr. Fred Born shared details and expectations for encouraging and inviting state veterinary medical associations and specialty groups to conduct oral history interviews of senior veterinarians. Already an annotated AVMHS catalog of about 300 such interviews with their locations has been completed. As we know, the practice of veterinary medicine has changed dramatically over the last 100 years and these practitioners have many fascinating and important "stories" to tell and recollections to share about how they practiced through the period of rapid development between the 1930s and 1980s.



## WAHVM Congress 2012

It is time to begin thinking about presentations of papers or posters at the next biennial meeting of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine in 2012. The themes of this congress at Utrecht University will be 1) the history of veterinary associations in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Netherlands Association 1862-2012 and 2) the history of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) to discuss its origins, leaders, and international influences. In addition, there will be an opportunity for free communications as usual. More information can be found on the Congress Web site at [www.veterinaryhistory.nl](http://www.veterinaryhistory.nl) or from our WAHVM Liaison Lesley Gentry at [lgentry@nckcn.com](mailto:lgentry@nckcn.com) or 785-738-8584.

### In Memoriam

#### Albert J. Koltviet, DVM (1931-2010)

Last summer we missed noting the passing of Dr. Albert J. Koltviet on May 30, 2010. At the business session of our Society in 1988, Dr. Koltviet, an editor (1969-1985) and Editor-in-Chief (1985-1995) of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* was elected Honorary Life Member of AVMHS. During his editorship, he upheld sound science and initiated

many features to improve the publication. As noted in his *JAVMA* Obituary (*JAVMA* 2010 Aug 1;237(3):252) and retirement interview (*JAVMA* 1995 Apr 15;206(8):1100-1101), he took pride in being associated with people who aspired to excellence. "His favorite feature initiated while editor-in-chief was 'Reflections,' in which giants in the profession gave accounts of their careers." Begun in 1987, he published nearly 78 of those columns. He said "they represent a valuable documentation of footprints in the sand left by some of the giants of our profession."

#### Charles Eckford Eastin, DVM (1924-2011)

A former AVMHS Board Member, Dr. Charles E. Eastin, died on January 20, 2011. He was appreciated for his friendliness and much admired for his regular attendance despite physical problems in his later years. Most members knew little about his early life, which had included teaching in Brazil and identifying the first case of trypanosomiasis in water buffalo in that country. In the 1960s, he worked for a decade in the United Kingdom, where he developed a colony of primates for research on diseases of veterinary and public health importance, as well as for his research on histoplasmosis, retinal detachment, pulmonary hypertension, fetal development and cardiology. Most of the rest of his professional life was spent managing laboratory animals at the University of Kentucky. A farmer, a veterinarian, and historian, Dr. Eastin belonged to and held positions in numerous local, state, and national organizations in which he maintained as remarkable an attendance as he did in AVMHS.